

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 OMB-01 MCE-00
DHA-02 /089 W
-----042624 151933Z /46

R 151610Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8323
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO RIYADH
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USIA WASHDC
NSC WHITE HOUSE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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USIA FOR IOP/M

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.) EG IS US
SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST MEDIA REPORTING AUGUST 14-15

REF: CAIRO 13474

1. TREATMENT OF U.S. UPBEAT AUGUST 14 AND 15. PRINCIPAL
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COMMENTS ON U.S. WERE MADE BY SADAT IN SPEECH TO STUDENTS
AUGUST 14 (SEPTTEL). HE PRAISED PRESIDENT CARTER AND
SECRETARY FOR "COMMITMENT TO TRUTH, MORAL CONVICTION, AND
JUST PEACE" IN SEARCH FOR MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. REMARKS
INTENDED TO COUNTER "WAVE OF PESSIMISM" THAT HAD
FOLLOWED VANCE TOUR. HE ALSO SPOKE APPROVINGLY OF "CARTER
REQUEST TO CONGRESS TO HELP EGYPT DIVERSIFY ARMS SOURCES",

CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF 250 MILLION DOLLAR ARMS DEAL, AND
U.S. ASSISTANCE AT RATE OF ONE BILLION DOLLARS PER YEAR.

2. AHAM REPORTED THAT AMERICAN "POLITICAL CIRCLES" BELIEVE
SADAT FAITHFULLY SEEKING PEACE AND THAT U.S. ADMINISTRATION
REALIZES EGYPT'S NEED FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. CONGRESS
EXPECTED TO ENDORSE U.S. ARMS SALES, BUT U.S. WILL TAKE
REGIONAL MILITARY BALANCE INTO CONSIDERATION. ACCORDING TO THESE
SOURCES, U.S. "PAYING ATTENTION TO PRESIDENT SADAT'S WARNING
THAT SECOND SINAI AGREEMENT WILL EXPIRE NEXT YEAR."

3. REPORTING GENERALLY LIGHT ON SUBSTANCE. PRESS REPORTED
FONMINS WILL MEET WITH PRESIDENT CARTER AS WELL AS VANCE
DURING UNGA. AHAM FEATURED STORY THAT COORDINATION OF
ARAB POSITIONS WILL BE DISCUSSED AT AL COUNCIL SEPT 3 AND
PLO EXPECTED TO SET FORTH ITS VISUALIZATION.

4. LEBANON. PAPERS REPORT, BUT NOT ON FRONT PAGES, THAT
"ISRAEL MASSING TROOPS ALONG LEBANESE BORDERS." SEE
CONNECTION WITH RECENT DETERIORATION OF SITUATION IN SOUTH.
LEBANESE FONMIN BUTROS QUOTED AS SAYING HE DID NOT EXPECT
ISRAEL TO INVADE SOUTH BUT FEARED IT MIGHT RESORT TO ACTION
WHICH WOULD PREVENT IMPLEMENTATION OF CAIRO ACCORD.

5. PALESTINIANS. AHAM REPORTS BRIEFLY THAT SADAT HAS SENT
MESSAGE TO ARAFAT DEALING WITH MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS FOLLOW-
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ING VANCE TOUR. NOTES ARAFAT RECEIVED MESSAGE FROM
USSR THROUGH SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN BEIRUT. NO PRESS INDICATION
WHEN HE MAY VISIT EGYPT. PALESTINIAN LEADER IN SOUTH LEBANON
QUOTED AS BELIEVING U.S. HAS INTENTION SEE PEACE PREVAIL, BUT
NOTED IT HAS NOT YET EXERTED PRESSURE ON ISRAEL.

6. COMMENTARY. AKHBAR MAKES ARGUMENT THAT MILITARY OPTION
NOT ABSENT FROM EGYPTIAN MINDS DESPITE PRE-OCCUPATION WITH
SEARCH FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. "IT HAS BEEN THERE SINCE
THE DAY WE CEASED FIGHTING IN OCTOBER WAR AND LAUNCHED OUR
PEACE INITIATIVE." VANCE TOUR TOOK PLACE IN CONTEXT OF THAT
INITIATIVE. HE HEARD CLEAR AND FRANK VIEWS OF EGYPT AND
OTHER ARAB STATES BUT UNAVOIDABLY FACED CLASH WITH
ISRAELIS WHEN HE WENT TO TEL AVIV AND FOUND NOTHING BUT
ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE. IT NO CONCERN TO EGYPT, HOWEVER,
AND SITUATION "IS NO LONGER ONE OF BARGAINING OR RESUMPTION
OF NO PEACE--NO WAR STALEMATE. THIS IS WHAT PRESIDENT
SADAT MEANT BY HIS REFERENCE TO EXPLORATION OF SECOND DIS-
ENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT IN OCTOBER 1978...ISRAEL WILL LEARN THAT
ITS INTRANSIGENCE WILL BE OF NO AVAIL."

7. GUMHURIYYA SAYS NEXT ISRAELI MOVE WILL BE CAMPAIGN "TO

POISON WORLD PUBLIC OPINION BY CLAIMING THAT (A) ARABS DO NOT DESIRE PEACE AND ARE GIVEN TO RHETORIC AND (B) PALESTINIANS MUST ANNOUNCE ACCEPTANCE OF RESOLUTION 242 AND RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL.

8. COMMENT: GOE CONTINUING CAST U.S. DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS IN BEST POSSIBLE LIGHT WHILE STIFFENING PUBLIC STAND TOWARD ISRAEL. THIS APPROXIMATES PRIVATE EGYPTIAN VIEWS THAT ARABS NOW FREE OF NEED TO DEMONSTRATE FURTHER FLEXIBILITY SINCE U.S. CONVINCED ISRAELI STUBBORNESS IS MAIN OBSTACLE TO OVERCOME. AT SAME TIME, PRIVATE DOUBT U.S. WILL PRESSURE ISRAEL AS NEEDED REMAIN UNASSUAGED. SADAT'S RECOGNITION THAT EGYPTIAN PEOPLE NEED TO BE SOLD ON BENEFITS OF CURRENT DIPLOMATIC ROUND UNDOUBTEDLY BEHIND CONTINUING DIALOGUE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITH PEOPLE HE HAS ANNOUNCED IS UNDERWAY. PRIMIN SALIM AND MIN LOCAL GOVT MOHIEDDIN HAVE BEEN DISPATCHED TO PROVINCIAL CENTERS TO EXTOL VIRTURES OF EGYPTIAN DIPLOMACY. ARAFAT FAILURE TO SHOW UP LOOKING MORE AND MORE LIKE SNUB TO SADAT.
EILTS

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Sent Date: 15-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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